

Given your interest in activities and developments related to Broadband expansion in Michigan, I thought you might be interested in a new e-newsletter, "**The Broadband Connection.**" It is targeted at key leaders that would like regular updates on the Broadband Authority's investment efforts and broadband trends. Below, you will find our inaugural copy of this e-newsletter. If you would like to receive these updates directly, please e-mail Penny Gutierrez at gutierrezp@michigan.gov.

James Butler, Vice President
Michigan Broadband Development Authority



The Broadband Connection for May 24, 2004

Largest Wireless Broadband Network in the U.S. Being Established in NE Michigan--As a result of a new \$1.3 million loan from the Broadband Authority, Rose City, Michigan-based "M-33 Access" is completing a 10,000 square mile wireless broadband network. Utilizing state-of-the-art equipment from equipment maker Proxim, the network will provide up to DS3 (45 megabit) level backbone support to large customers. The loan will enable M-33 to serve Kirtland Community College and more than a dozen schools in the region, saving these users nearly a million dollars and improving speeds and quality of service. Point-to-point wireless service for residents and businesses will also now be available in this area--serving one of the most rural and under served regions of the state. The expanded network will be up and running by July 1.

ACD.net Expansion Loan Near Completion--The Broadband Authority Board approved a \$1.2 loan to Lansing-based ACD.Net and final closing on the loan should be completed by the end of the month. This loan will expand ACD's DSL, voice over IP and other services to several mid-Michigan towns including: Mason, Portland, Haslett and Holt among others.

Michigan Lightwave Loan Application Approved--A Macomb County-based dark fiber provider has received approval from the Broadband Authority Board for an \$800,000 loan to complete a fiber ring in Macomb and northern Oakland County. Final closing on this loan should occur by June.

Broadband Loan Applications Soar--Roughly \$14 million in new loan applications (nearly a dozen) are now under review at the Broadband Authority. Combined with loans already closed, nearly 100 communities across the state would see service improved or expanded from these providers if funded.

Study Names Detroit No. 6 in Broadband Penetration--A report released this Spring by ComScore Networks found that 45% of metro Detroit Households that connect to the Internet do so via a broadband connection. San Diego ranked No.1 with 52%. Affordability and competition between multiple providers appeared to be the strongest indicators for why these communities ranked high nationally. Grand Rapids was the only other Michigan city mentioned in the study with roughly 30% of the households connecting to the Internet in that community doing so via a broadband connection.

Cool Cities Program--The Broadband Authority has actively supported the Governor's new Cool Cities program--which was unveiled in early April. Among other things, the Broadband Authority is offering zero percent seed loans for any Cool City that needs assistance in planning or developing a broadband infrastructure initiative.

For More information about the Broadband Authority's Loan Programs visit:
www.broadbandauthority.org